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MINUTES

OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD,

OF

NORTH-CAROLINA AND ADJACENT STATES,

CONVENED

AT ZION'S CHURCH, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA,

On the 7th of May, 1826.

Salisbury:
PRINTED BY PHILO WHITE.

1826.

MINUTES, &c.

In compliance with a resolution adopted at the last session, the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North-Carolina, and adjacent States, convened on the first Sunday in May, 1826, at Zion's Church, Botetourt county, Va., and continued in session the 8th, 9th, and 10th.

On Saturday previous, the Rev. Daniel Scherer preached in the German Language, from 2d Cor. 6. 1, 2; and the Rev. Wm. Jenkins in the English, from 1st John, 3. 1, 2.

On Sunday, the 7th, the new Church was solemnly consecrated to the service of the Triune God, as a church in common, between the Lutherans and German Reformed, by the name of *Zion's Church*. The Rev. G. Shober delivered the consecrating sermon, from Habakkuk 2. 20: "But the Lord is in his holy temple: Let the earth keep silence before him." At the same time, in consequence of the overflowing crowd, the Rev. S. K. Hoshour preached in a beautiful grove, a little distance from the church, in the English Language, on 1st Thess. 5. 17. The Rev. John Reck immediately succeeded the Rev. President, and delivered a discourse in the English Language, preliminary to the Lord's Supper, from Coll. 1. 19.

After this, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to a large and respectable number of communicants. The gracious presence of the Divine Redeemer was energetically felt, and the greatest love and harmony prevailed among the Brethren.

In the afternoon, the Rev. Daniel J. Hower preached in the English Language, from Matt. 17. 5.

Monday, the 8th, at 9 o'clock, the session was opened with singing and prayer, by the former President.

The following Brethren were present:

ORDAINED MINISTERS;

Rev. G. Shober, from Salem, Stokes county, N. C.
Rev. Jacob Scherer, from Guilford;
Rev. Daniel Scherer, Cabarrus;
Rev. Jacob Miller, Stokes;
Rev. Martin Walter, Botetourt, Virginia.

LICENTIATES;

Rev. WILLIAM JENKINS, from Bedford county, Tenn.;
Rev. ANDREW SECHRIST, Washington county, Virginia;
Rev. JOHN C. A. SCHOENBERG, Davidson county, N. C.;
Rev. JOHN RECK, Salisbury, Rowan.

The following Brethren were absent: Rev. C. A. G. STORCH, Rev. JACOB GRIESON, Rev. ADAM GRIMES, Rev. JOHN REICHERD.

The Lay Delegates present, were; Mr. Henry Kranck, from Zion's Church, Montgomery, Virginia; John Linn, Esq. from the Organ church, Rowan, N. Carolina; Christopher Melcher, Esq. from St. John's, Cold Water, and Bethel Churches, Cabarrus; Jesse W. Walton, Esq. from Salisbury, Union, and St. Michael's congregations; George Zerfasz, Montgomery, Virginia; George Haubert, Zion's church, Botetourt county, Virginia; Daniel Forrister, from the Rev. Schœnberg's congregations; Conrad Staly, from the Rev. J. Scherer's congregations; Frederick Rothrock, Hopeville congregation, Stokes, N. C.; Joseph Hilsebeck, from Nazareth congregation.

The Synod now proceeded to the election of officers; and, on counting the votes, it appeared that the following Brethren were duly elected:

Rev. G. SHOBER, *President*;
Rev. JACOB SCHERER, *Secretary*.

It being moved and seconded, the Rev. Samuel K. Hoshour, and Daniel J. Hower, members of the Lutheran Synod of Maryland and Virginia, were introduced, and invited to take part in our deliberations. Accordingly, the Synod consisted of 25 members.

At the request of the President, the papers addressed to this Synod, were handed in and read, as follows:

1. A letter from the Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, in which he recommends the Rev. D. J. Hower to this Synod, as a pious youth, of a respectable family, and sufficiently qualified to perform the actus ministeriales. Whereupon, he

was cordially received as a member, and obtained candidate license for one year.

2. A letter from the Rev. Jacob Grieson, in which he excuses his absence, and prays that his license be renewed. Whereupon it was resolved, that he be excused, and his candidate license be renewed for one year.

3. A letter from the Rev. Adam Grimes, in which he excuses his absence, and petitions this Synod to renew his license. He was excused; his catechet license renewed for one year; and resolved, that the Rev. Jacob Miller visit his congregations, and administer to them the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

4. A letter signed by the members of Beck's and Pilgrim's churches, in Davidson county, N. C. in which they testify that the Rev. C. A. Schœnberg administered to them, in word and doctrine, during the past year, with considerable applause. The Rev. Schœnberg then handed in his license; was received as a member of this Synod, and obtained candidate license for one year, to preach in Haywood county, and wherever a door of usefulness may open to him.

5. A letter from the Rev. John Reichert, in which he also apologizes for his absence: resolved that he be excused, and that his catechet license be renewed for one year.

Next, the Petitions addressed to this Synod were handed in, numbered, and resolved that two committees be appointed to examine all petitions, and report the following morning. The 1st committee was composed of the Rev. Messrs. Daniel Scherer, Martin Walter, and John Linn, Esq.— The Rev. Messrs. John Reck, Jacob Miller, and Jesse W. Walton, Esq. constituted the 2d committee.

The annual contributions were now paid into the Synodical Treasury, as follows:

From the Rev. M. Walter's congregations;

From Preisen's church, Montgomery county, Va.	$ 1 06¼
Zion's church, Botetourt county, Va. - -	10 75
Zion's church, Montgomery county, Va. -	2 50

From the Rev. J. Reck's congregations;

Union church,	5
St. Michael's church,	3 40

From Individuals in Salisbury;

Mr. George Fraly,	1
Mr. Robert Mull,	1
Other individuals,	62½

From the Rev. D. Scherer's congregations;

Organ church,	5 39
Savage's,	2 46
Bethel,	1 62½
St. John's,	6 87½

From the Rev. W. Jenkins's congregations;

Schafner's church,	1 06¼
Other congregations,	1 93¾

From the Rev. Jacob Scherer's congregations;

Zion's church,	1 08
Reichland,	85
Lau's,	95
Graves's,	2 75
Frieden's,	3 25

From the Rev. Sechrist's congregations,	3 00
From the Rev. D. J. Hower,	1
From Fourth creek congregation,	85
From the Rev. John Reichert,	50
From the Rev. Jacob Miller's congregations,	1 20
From the Rev. G. Shober's congregations,	1 90
Total,	$62 00¾

On motion, it was resolved, that a committee be appointed to examine the Treasurer's account; and that the Rev. William Jenkins and Christopher Melcher, Esq. constitute that committee.

The Rev. Andrew Sechrist then delivered a discourse in the German Language, from 1 John 4. 19; and the Rev. Wm. Jenkins in the English, from Ephes. 2. 19.

After this, the Minutes of the last session of this Synod were read.

The Rev. Jacob Scherer and Schœnberg, reported, that, according to the appointment of the last Synod, they visited those congregations in Iredell and Lincoln counties, and were treated with the utmost kindness and hospitality.

The Rev. Jacob Miller reported, that, in accordance with a resolution of the last session, he visited St. Michael's church, in Iredell, and was received with brotherly affection and kindness.

In consequence of the long delay of the committee appointed by the last session of the General Synod, to have an exact translation of Dr. Martin Luther's Catechism printed; therefore, resolved, that the Rev. President, as a member of said committee, write a letter immediately to the Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, in order to ascertain whether the aforesaid catechism be in print; and in case it should not, that the Rev. G. Shober endeavor to procure the manuscript which was approved and sanctioned by the last General Synod, and have it printed immediately.

On motion, it was resolved, that number 12th in our last minutes be so amended, that "the Rev. President of this Synod, in conjunction with two others of the neighboring Pastors, have the right, in extraordinary cases, to give license to applicants, if sufficiently qualified, until the next session.

The Rev. G. Shober then presented an extract which he had made from all our former minutes, of the most important proceedings, in compliance with a resolution of last Synod, for inspection and examination: Whereupon it was resolved, that a committee be appointed to review said Extract; and that the Rev. Messrs. Jacob Scherer, Schœnberg, S. K. Hoshour, and John Reck,—Mr. Staly, and Jesse W. Walton, Esq. be that committee.

A friendly letter was received from the Rev. Charles F. Bergman, who was appointed by the Lutheran Synod of South Carolina, as a ministerial Delegate to our present session, and publicly read. His letter breathed the spirit of true friendship and piety, and contained the reasons of his

non-attendance. We are truly sorry that it was impracticable for him to attend; but as his apologies were deemed well founded, he was promptly excused.

It being interrogated, who would visit the Lutheran Synod of South-Carolina, in order to continue to reciprocate the harmonious sentiments and friendly feelings, evinced in their letter, the Rev. Jacob Scherer was nominated as a delegate; and resolved, that, if it be impracticable for him to attend personally, to write them a friendly letter.

Inasmuch as monthly concerts, or prayer-meetings, are held by the great mass of religious denominations, for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom; therefore, resolved, that it be recommended to the members and congregations belonging to this Synod, to observe and encourage such meetings on the first Monday of every month.

The proceedings of this day were then closed by singing and prayer, and Synod adjourned until next morning.

Tuesday, the 9th, 9 o'clock.—Synod met, and was constituted by singing and prayer.

The minutes of the preceding day were read, and sanctioned.

The minutes of the proceedings of the last General Synod of our church, were then read.

In consequence of the decease of Mr. Keck, one of the Directors of our Theological Seminary, for N. C. Michael Holt, Esq. was unanimously elected in his stead.

Resolved, that the proposition of the last General Synod, viz: to erase, in the preamble of the constitution of the General Synod, the words, "no special regulations," and to insert in lieu thereof, "no entire specific directory for government and discipline," be sanctioned.

The first committee appointed to examine petitions, having attended to the duty assigned them, handed in the following report:

No. 1st Is a petition from Lincoln county, N. C. signed by some of the elders, wardens, and members of St. Paul's, Grace, and Salem's churches; who earnestly solicit this

Synod to send them visiting preachers, because they believe that this would have a most salutary influence on their congregations. They promise to remunerate those visiting preachers who may be sent to them, for their labours. They further pray, that this Synod would hold its next session at St. Paul's, or Grace church, Lincoln county. The committee recommend these congregations to the particular notice of this Synod, and that their petitions be granted. This report was adopted; and resolved, that the Rev. J. Reck visit in Lincoln as soon as possible; after him, the Rev. Dan'l. Scherer, and others to whom it may be convenient.

No. 2d Contains petitions from Salisbury, Union and St. Michael's congregations, in which they highly recommend the Rev. John Reck; and respectfully solicit, that he be received into our ministerium, and empowered to perform all the Pastoral functions. The committee recommends to this Synod, that these petitions be granted. In compliance with the above report, it was resolved, that the Rev. Mr. Reck be ordained here on to-morrow, if he, on examination, be found sufficiently qualified. The Rev. President and Secretary were then nominated to inquire into his qualifications, and report the following morning.

No. 3d Contains three petitions, from the congregations in Wythe and Washington counties, signed by 68 persons, who recommend the Rev. Andrew Sechrist, as to his moral deportment and orthodoxy; and pray that his license be renewed. They further request that this Synod would hold its next session in Wythe county. The committee recommends that the Rev. Sechrist's license be renewed. This report was adopted, and the Rev. Mr. Sechrist's candidate license renewed for one year.

No. 4th Is a petition from a congregation on Fourth-Creek, Rowan county, which was lately organized by the Rev. Schœnberg. This congregation petitions to be received into connexion with this Synod, and visited by us in future, until they can be supplied with a stationary minister.

The committee advise that this congregation be received, and that they be visited as often as possible.

DANIEL SCHERER,
MARTIN WALTER,
JOHN LINN.

The above report was adopted; the congregation joyfully received; and resolved, that the Rev. J. Reck visit them as often as possible: and that it be recommended to other Brethren who live convenient to do the same.

The 2nd committee having discharged the duty assigned them, beg leave respectfully to report:

No. 5, is a petition from three Congregations on Abbot's Creek, Davidson county, signed by fifty-one members, of Pilgrim's, Emanuel's, and Beck's churches; in which they return their unfeigned thanks to the members of this Synod for their repeated visits, and for having supplied them, for a time, with a constant minister. They solicit that they may be regularly attended in future; and if this should be impracticable, to be visited frequently. They also give a pressing invitation to this Synod, to have its next session with them.

The committee respectfully recommends, that the solicitations of the petitioners be granted, as far as practicable.

In compliance with the above recommendation, it was resolved, that the Rev. Jacob Miller take charge of these congregations; or if this be impracticable, to visit them frequently.

No. 6, is a letter from Mr. Henry David Kyle, addressed to this Synod, in which he expresses a desire to become a member of this Synod, and prays that a committee be appointed to examine him, &c.

The advice of the committee, relative to Mr. Kyle, was not adopted. *Resolved*, that the Rev. Secretary write him a letter.

No. 7, contains five petitions; four of which are from the Rev. W. Jenkins's congregations, in Bedford, Lincoln, and Franklin counties, West Tennessee, signed by a number of persons, who express their entire satisfaction with the

indefatigable labours of their present Minister, and pray that he may be their stationed preacher in future. They further earnestly solicit, that an additional Minister be sent to labour in conjunction with the Rev. William Jenkins, and promise that they will endeavor to support him decently.

The fifth petition is from a congregation recently organized in Winchester, Franklin county, Tennessee, signed by 8 persons, who wish to be received into the care and guidance of this Synod; to have a stationed preacher among them, and promise to give him a reasonable support.

The committee respectfully recommends to this Synod, that the Rev. Wm. Jenkins be permitted to continue his successful labours in his congregations; if possible, to send them an additional minister, and to receive the newly organized congregation.

This report was promptly accepted; the new congregation was joyfully received; and resolved, that the Rev. Wm. Jenkins visit them as often as possible, and that he obtain candidate license for two years.

No. 8, is a letter from the Rev. Nicholas Schmucker, a member of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia, in which he recommends to this Synod Mr. John P. Cline, as a pious and worthy youth, with a wish that he may be received into our Synod; and prays that the blessing of God may accompany our deliberations.

Resolved, 1st, that it be recommended to this Synod to appoint a committee to inquire into the Theological attainments of Mr. Cline, and if found sufficiently qualified, that he obtain candidate license for one year; and be received as a member of this Synod.

2dly, that the Rev. Nicholas Schmucker's letter be read to the members of this Synod.

JOHN RECK,
JACOB MILLER,
JESSE W. WALTON.

The above report was adopted, and the Rev. Daniel Scherer and Martin Walter, were nominated to constitute the committee to examine Mr. J. P. Cline.

The committee having discharged the duty enjoined upon them, gave the following report:

Your committee is happy to say, that they have found Mr. John P. Cline possessed of such qualifications, as have induced them to recommend him to the particular notice of this Synod, and advise that he receive candidate license.

DANIEL SCHERER,
MARTIN WALTER.

This report was adopted, and Mr. J. P. Cline received candidate license for one year, to preach at St. Peter's, Paul's, and other churches near the South River, in Virginia.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's account, reported as follows:

After the last year's settlement, the Treasurer, G. Shober, was indebted to this Synod,		$ 4 63
Received since, for books called Luther,		48 50
Contributions at the present session,		62 00¾
		115 00¾

Disbursements since the last session.

For printing the minutes of the last session in the German and English Languages,	$49 00
Postage for the same,	2 00
Postage for the minutes of other Synods, which he received for the use of this,	5 82½
A record book for the use of this Synod,	4 00
Paid to Mr. John Harche, for the carriage of one box of books called Luther,	1 50
	$62 32½
This deducted from the above sum, leaves in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of	$52 81½

WILLIAM JENKINS,
CHRISTOPHER MELCHER.

This report was adopted, and the Rev. G. Shober re-elected Treasurer.

The committee appointed to examine the Extracts, which the Rev. President made from all our former minutes, in accordance with a resolution of last Synod, having discharged the duty assigned them, made the following report:

We have carefully examined and revised the aforesaid Extracts, and recommend that they be adopted, and transcribed into the record Book, purchased for that purpose.

JACOB SCHERER,
JOHN C. A. SCHŒNBERG,
JOHN RECK,
CONRAD STALY,
JESSE W. WALTON.

This report was adopted; and resolved, that the Rev. President have these Extracts recorded in the blank book procured for that purpose.

On motion, it was resolved, that this Synod tender their thanks to the Rev. President, for his indefatigable labours in making the above Extracts.

Resolved, that the Treasurer make a deduction of one dollar and fifty cents, of his account with the Rev. W. Jenkins, for injured books, (Luther) which he sold at a reduced price.

On motion, it was resolved, that in order to promote the respectability of this Ecclesiastical Body, the Rev. President be requested to have Ordination Certificates and Candidate Licenses printed, and that our ministerial *Seal* be impressed upon a sufficient number, until our next session.

Resolved, that the expenditures of said credentials, be paid out of our Treasury.

The proceedings of this day were then closed by singing and prayer, and Synod adjourned until next morning.

Wednesday, the 10th, 9 o'clock.—The session of this day was constituted by singing and prayer.

PAROCHIAL REPORTS.

MINISTERS.	*Congregations.*	*Baptized.*		*Confirmed.*	*Communicants.*	*Deaths.*
		Adults.	*Children.*			
Rev. G. Shober	4	0	25	7	80	8
Jacob Scherer	5	0	75	0	305	28
Daniel Scherer	5	1	137	90	503	29
Jacob Miller	5	0	53	0	55	16
Martin Walter	4	4	46	7	118	5
John Reck	3	0	11	2	112	4
William Jenkins	5	6	46	43	107	17
Andrew Sechrist	[illegible]	0	26	0	113	6
J. C. A. Schœnberg	3	0	30	0	00	1
Jacob Grieson	0	0	4	0	00	4
John Reichard	0	0	0	0	00	2
	37	11	453	149	1393	120

Resolved, that a committee be designated to inquire into the actual state of religion in the various congregations with-

in the limits of the jurisdiction of this Synod, and to report at our next session; and that the Rev. John Reck, Daniel Scherer, and Jesse W. Walton, Esq. be that committee. It was further unanimously resolved, that every Minister belonging to our Synod, acquaint this committee of the real condition of his respective congregations, several months previous to our next session.

The committee nominated to inquire into the Theological attainments of the Rev. J. Reck, gave the following report:

We have discharged the duty assigned us, and are happy to say, that his attainments in Theology, as well as in other sciences, are very good; and that he appears to be deeply interested in the promotion of the Redeemer's Kingdom: therefore, we recommend that he be ordained.

GOTTLEIB SHOBER,
JACOB SCHERER.

This report was adopted.

It affords us much pleasure, that the congregation in Salisbury, which has been in our connexion for many years, but which had become almost extinct, is now reviving under the auspicies of the Rev. John Reck, and wish to remain in connexion with this Synod.

Resolved, that 600 copies of our minutes be published; 300 in German, and 300 in English.

Resolved, that a committee be nominated for the purpose of translating our minutes into the English Language, and prepare them for the press; and that the Rev. John Reck, Daniel Scherer, and Jesse W. Walton, Esq. be that committee.

An appropriate discourse was then delivered by the Rev. Secretary, from Luke 12. 42; after which the Rev. JOHN RECK was solemnly ordained as *Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, by the Rev. Messrs. President, Daniel Scherer, and Jacob Miller.

Immediately after this, the Rev. Licentiates were requested by the President to come forward. They accordingly surrounded the altar; received their charge; promised, in

the presence of the heart-searching God, to perform their duty faithfully, and received their credentials in the most impressive manner.

The Rev. President now, in the name of the Synod, presented to the people the acknowledgments and sincere thanks of this Judicatory, for their hospitality and kindness during the present session, praying that they may be amply remunerated for it in time and eternity.

As this Synod received several pressing invitations from different vicinities to convene with them, it was resolved to vote by ballot; upon which, Lincoln county was elected.

Resolved, that it be left to the vestry of St. Paul's and Grace churches, in Lincoln county, finally to decide the particular place of its convention.* The time specified, is the first Sunday in May next, 1827.

All the business being finished, in love and harmony, the Brethren united with the President, in prayer to Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God, and the Great Head and Shepherd of his Church, to bless all our deliberations; to replenish our congregations with the riches of his grace; to guide us, his humble servants, in future, by his unerring truth; and thus closed their session.

That the above was transacted in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, for North-Carolina and adjacent States, held at Zion's Church, Botetourt county, Virginia, May, 1826, is certified by

JACOB SCHERER, *Secretary.*

Names of the Preachers who belong to this Synod:

Pastors: C. A. G. Storch,
Gottleib Shober,
Jacob Scherer,
Daniel Scherer,
Jacob Miller,
Martin Walter,
John Reck.

* Determined since, by the members of these churches, that it shall be held at St. Paul's Church. *Translator.*

Licentiates: William Jenkins,
J. C. A. Schœnberg,
Andrew Sechrist,
Jacob Grieson,
Daniel J. Hower,
John P. Cline.

Catechets: Adam Grimes,
John Reichard.

As we have so many calls for Ministers of the Gospel, at all our Synodical Meetings; as we feel it a duty obligatory upon us to encourage pious young men in our section of country to prepare for the gospel ministry and attend our Theological Seminary; and as few persons have access to the constitution of said Seminary; it was thought expedient by Synod to affix a few paragraphs of said constitution to our minutes.

We learn from the Constitution, that one great design of this Theological Seminary is, to assist pious indigent young men, to obtain suitable qualifications for the *Gospel Ministry*.

In Article I, Paragraph 4th, of the constitution, where the design of the Seminary is stated, it reads thus:—"To educate for the Ministry, poor young men of piety and talents; by affording them gratuitous instruction, and, as far as the funds will admit, and their necessity requires, defraying also their other necessary expenses."

Article IX, section 1st, "One of the prominent objects of this institution shall be, to defray, either in whole, or in part, the necessary expenses, of indigent young men, destined to the gospel ministry."

Sect. 3d. "No person shall be received as Beneficiary, who does not furnish satisfactory testimonials that he is possessed of distinguished natural talents and piety. And if at any time it shall appear to the Professors, that any Beneficiary of this institution does not make such progress in learning and piety, as might be expected, he shall no longer profit by the charitable funds of the Seminary."

Sect. 4. "Poor Students shall pay nothing for room-rent in the Seminary, and shall be exempted from all the other expenses of the Seminary, as far as the state of the funds will admit."